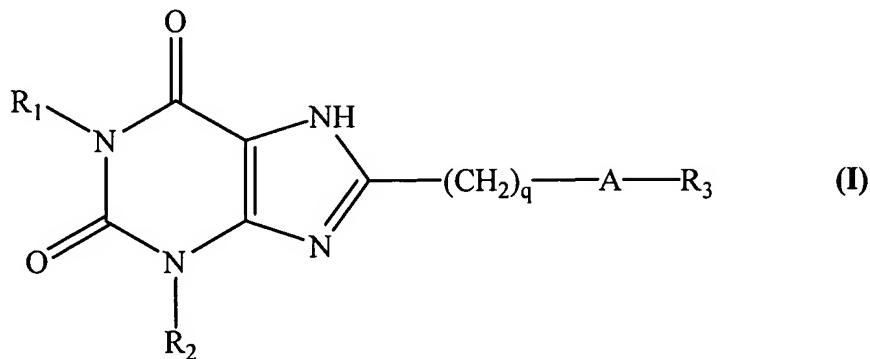


Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaromatic ring containing 1 to 4 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S;

R₂ is of the formula (i):



wherein:

A' is a 6-membered aromatic ring or heteroaromatic ring containing [[0]] 1 to 4 nitrogen atoms ~~heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S~~;

r is an integer ranging from 1 to 20;

R₄ is selected from the group consisting of H; NH₂; (CH₂)_sOH, wherein s is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; [[COOH;]] R₁₄COOH, wherein R₁₄ is an alkylene or alkylidene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms; halo, NHR₈, NR₈R₉, NHCOR₈, NR₈COR₉, SO₃H and PO₃H₂;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, NH₂, R₁₅COOH, wherein R₁₅ is an alkylene or alkylidene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and (CH₂)_tOH, wherein t is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; halo, NHR₈, NR₈R₉, NHCOR₈, NR₈COR₉, SO₃H and PO₃H₂;

q is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; and

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R₁ is a C₁-C₈ alkanyl group, C₂-C₈-alkenyl- or C₂-C₈-alkynyl- group which is optionally substituted by -CN, -CH₂NR₆R₇OH, -OR₈, -NR₆R₇, -NHCOR₈, NHCONR₆R₇, halogen, -OCOR₈, -OCH₂COOH, -OCH₂COOR₈, -SO₂R₅, -S-R₅, -OCH₂-CONR₆R₇, -OCH₂CH₂OH, -SO₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-COR₈, -OCH₂.CH₂-NR₆R₇, -SO₂-CH₂-CH₂-OH, -CONHSO₂R₈, -CH₂CONHSO₂R₈, -OCH₂CH₂OR₈, -COOH, --COOR₈, -CONR₆R₇, -CHO, -SR₈, -SOR₈, -SO₂R₈, -SO₃H, -PO₃H₂, -SO₂NR₆R₇, -OCH₂-CH₂OCOR₈, -CH=NOH, -CH=NOR₈, -COR₉, -CH(OH)R₉, -CH(OR₈)₂, -CH=CH-R₁₀, -OCONR₆R₇,

R₅ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, optionally substituted by OH, OCOR₈, NH₂, NR₆R₇ or NHCOR₈,

R₆[,] and R₇, and R₈ are each independently hydrogen, an optionally substituted C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl group, a branched or unbranched alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by hydroxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, amino, ~~amino substituted with C₁ to C₈ alkyl, or it denotes -(CH₂)_m-NHCOOR₈ wherein m=1, 2, 3 or 4;~~

R₈ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₂-C₈-alkenyl or C₂-C₈-alkynyl optionally substituted with CO₂H, a benzyl- or phenyl- group, which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by OCH₃;

R₉ is C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₂-C₈-alkenyl or C₂-C₈-alkynyl optionally substituted with CO₂H, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, and

R₁₀ is -COOR₈, -CH₂OR₈, -CONR₆R₇, hydrogen, C₁-C₃-alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, --CH₂NR₆R₇;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, ~~hydrates~~ and prodrugs thereof.

2. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of R₃ and R₄ is independently selected from the group consisting of SO₃H and PO₃H₂.

3. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein R₁ is a C₁-C₈ alkanyl group, C₂-C₈-alkenyl group or C₂-C₈ alkynyl group which is optionally substituted by NR₆R₇, -SO₃H, or -PO₃H₂.

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4. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein A is selected from the group selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, thiophenyl, thiazolyl, and tetrazolyl.

5. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein A' is phenyl.

6. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein:
R₁ is a C₁-C₈ alkanyl group, C₂-C₈-alkenyl group or C₂-C₈ alkynyl group which is optionally substituted by NR₆R₇ or -SO₃H;

A is selected from the group selected from the group consisting of pyridyl, thiophenyl, thiazolyl, and tetrazolyl; and

A' is phenyl.

7. (Original) The compound of claim 6, wherein at least one of R₃ and R₄ is independently selected from the group consisting of SO₃H and PO₃H₂.

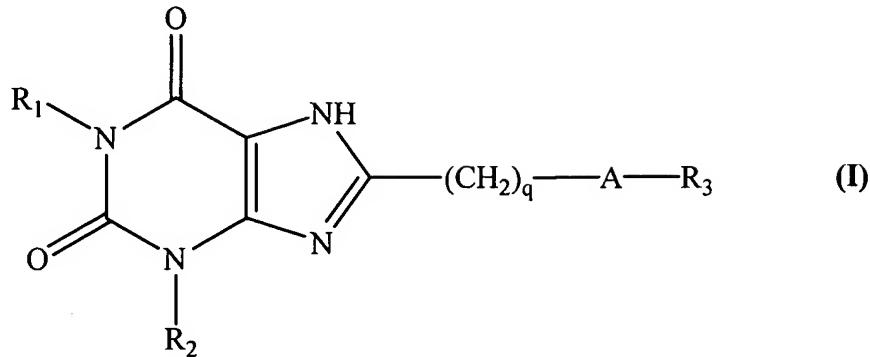
8. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(3-pyridyl)methyl]xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(4-thiazolyl)methyl]xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(thiophen-2-yl)methyl]xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(1*H*-tetrazol-5-yl)methyl]xanthine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates and prodrugs thereof.

9-11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A composition comprising a compound of claim 1 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

13. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

A is a 5- or 6-membered aromatic ring;

R₂ is of the formula (i):



wherein:

A' is a 6-membered aromatic ring or a heteroaromatic ring containing [[0]] 1 to 4 nitrogen atoms heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O, and S;

r is an integer ranging from 1 to 20;

R₄ is selected from the group consisting of NH₂, halo, NHR₈, NR₈R₉, NHCOR₈, NR₈COR₉, [[COOH,]] SO₃H and PO₃H₂;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, NH₂, R₁₅COOH, wherein R₁₅ is an alkylene or alkylidene group having 1 to 8 carbon atoms, and (CH₂)_tOH, wherein t is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; halo, NHR₈, NR₈R₉, NHCOR₈, NR₈COR₉, SO₃H and PO₃H₂;

q is an integer ranging from 1 to 8; and

R₁ is a C₁-C₈ alkanyl- group, C₂-C₈-alkenyl-, or C₂-C₈-alkynyl- group which is optionally substituted by -CN, -CH₂NR₆R₇OH, -OR₈, -NR₆R₇, -NHCOR₈, -NHCONR₆R₇, halogen, -OCOR₈, -OCH₂COOH, -OCH₂COOR₈, -SO₂R₅, -S-R₅, -OCH₂-CONR₆R₇, -OCH₂CH₂OH, -SO₂-CH₂-CH₂-O-COR₈, -OCH₂-CH₂-NR₆R₇, -SO₂-CH₂-CH₂-OH, -CONHSO₂R₈, -CH₂CONHSO₂R₈, -OCH₂CH₂OR₈, -COOH, -COOR₈, -CONR₆R₇, -CHO, -SR₈, -SOR₈, -SO₂R₈,

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-SO₃H, -PO₃H₂, -SO₂NR₆R₇, -OCH₂-CH₂OCOR₈, -CH=NOH, -CH=NOR₈, -COR₉, -CH(OH)R₉, -CH(OR₈)₂, -CH=CH-R₁₀, -OCONR₆R₇,

R₅ is C₁-C₄-alkyl, optionally substituted by OH, OCOR₈, NH₂, NR₆R₇ or NHCOR₈,

R₆ and R₇ [[- R₈]] are each independently hydrogen, an optionally substituted C₃₋₆-cycloalkyl group, a branched or unbranched alkyl-, alkenyl- or alkynyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, which may optionally be substituted by hydroxy, phenyl, substituted phenyl, amino, ~~amino substituted with C₁-C₈-alkyl~~, or it denotes -(CH₂)_m-NHCOOR₈ wherein m=1, 2, 3 or 4;

R₈ is hydrogen, C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₂-C₈-alkenyl or C₂-C₈-alkynyl optionally substituted with CO₂H, a benzyl- or phenyl- group, which is optionally mono- or polysubstituted by OCH₃;

R₉ is C₁-C₈-alkyl or C₂-C₈-alkenyl or C₂-C₈-alkynyl optionally substituted with CO₂H, optionally substituted phenyl, optionally substituted benzyl, C₃-C₆-cycloalkyl, and

R₁₀ is -COOR₈, -CH₂OR₈, -CONR₆R₇, hydrogen, C₁-C₃-alkyl, optionally substituted phenyl, --CH₂NR₆R₇;

and pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, and prodrugs thereof.

14. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 13, wherein A is phenyl.

15. (Previously presented) The compound of claim 13, wherein A' is phenyl.

16. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 13, wherein:

A is phenyl;

A' is phenyl;

r is 2;

R₄ is selected from the group consisting of NH₂, [[COOH]], NHCOR₈, and SO₃H;

R₃ is selected from the group consisting of H, NH₂, halo, SO₃H, and NHCOR₈;

q is 1; and

R₁ is a C₁-C₈ alkanyl group optionally substituted by -OR₈, -NR₆R₇, or -SO₃H.

17. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 13, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of:

3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-propylxanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-(4-sulfone~~x~~oxybenzyl)xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-methoxypropyl)xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-dimethylamino)propylxanthine;
3-[2-[4-(6-Aminohexanoyl)aminophenyl]ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-propylxanthine;
8-Benzyl-1-propyl-3-[4-(4-sulfone~~x~~oxyphenyl)butyl]xanthine;
8-Benzyl-1-propyl-3-[2-(4-sulfone~~x~~oxyphenyl)ethyl]xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(3-sulfone~~x~~oxypropyl)xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-(4-fluorobenzyl)-1-propylxanthine;
8-(2-Acetaminobenzyl)-3-[2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl]-1-propylxanthine;
8-(2-Aminobenzyl)-3-(2-phenylethyl)-1-propylxanthine;
~~8-Benzyl-3-[2-(3-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-propylxanthine;~~
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(8-sulfone~~x~~yoctyl)xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(5-sulfone~~x~~ypentyl)xanthine;
3-[2-(4-Aminophenyl)ethyl]-8-benzyl-1-(5-sulfone~~x~~ypentyl)xanthine; and
pharmaceutically acceptable salts, ~~hydrates~~ and prodrugs thereof.

18. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a compound of claim 13 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

19. (New) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

8-Benzyl-3-[2-(3-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-propylxanthine;
3-[2-(2-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-8-(3-fluorobenzyl)-1-propylxanthine;
3-[2-(2-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-8-(3-nitrobenzyl)-1-propylxanthine;

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3-[2-(2-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(2-pyridyl)methyl]xanthine; and
3-[2-(2-carboxyphenyl)ethyl]-1-propyl-8-[(2-pyridyl)methyl]xanthine;
and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and prodrugs thereof.

20. (New) A composition comprising a compound of claim 19 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.